Cambridge Novr 19th 1777

Sir

The Day before Yesterday I visited the Barracks of the German Troops with a Master Carpenter, in presence of Colonel Lee, in order to examine, what repairs were necessary, as well for the covering against cold & bad weather, as, to make as great a saving of wood as possible. The most necessary Repairs were ordered, & Col. Lee promised me that they shall be immediately put in execution. I proposed one Article of repair, which I thought most highly necessary both, to defend the men from the cold, & to save wood, but Col. Lee could not grant it. The Proposal was this. All the Barracks are uncovered from the Roof downwards, by which means all the warmth & heat rises upwards, & notwithstanding a very great quantity of wood is burnt, it is not possible to warm the different Rooms. If Blankets were laid across over the Beams which are below

the Roof & by this means a covering made over the Rooms, the warmth would be collected into a much smaller space, & a less quantity of wood would be consumed.

Experience has shewn the Advantage of this plan, as some have been so fortunate as to find Materials & have covered their rooms. Some of the Barracks are already covered with blankets, & these are as warm & comfortable as a room in a house, & do not require half the Quantity of firewood, whereas the other Barracks notwithstanding every effort to warm them, are almost unsupportable through cold.

Col. Lee could not agree to this my proposal, & feared that the expence might be too great, in procuring boards for this purpose, & besides said that he had no order from you.

The kind promises you have so often given me, to do every thing for the Comfort & Convenience of the Troops, as well as the dictates of humanity, make

me flatter myself that you will not refuse my request but give the necessary Orders for the execution of it. It is but too evident how very necessary such a repair is.

One can hardly imagine that in such a large town as Boston, boards should be scarce, besides there are several old buildings near the Barracks, which might be taken down & used for this purpose. The number of Barracks which require covering is not great, as near one third are nearly covered already. The expence cannot be so great, as these boards can hereafter be used for various other purposes, & the men themselves can repair their Barracks, if materials are furnished, by which means the expence of workmen will be saved. I flatter myself that your goodness & humanity will prompt you to grant

my request & shall consider myself as under
an obligation to you for your politeness.

I have the honor to be with
great respect

Sir

Your most obed.
Humble Servant

Kiedesel
Major General

I shall be much obliged
to you if you will be kind enough
to forward the enclosed to Capt. Connel.

Letter from Genl
Riedesel relative
to Barracks &c
Prov. Cy

G.E. 7.80
RU 500